



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
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## NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Elliot Krieger, Communications – (401) 222-8471  
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### **Commissioner Gist to Visit Central Falls, Warwick for First Day of School**

In order to welcome students and educators at the start the school year, Education Commissioner Deborah A. Gist will visit schools in Central Falls and Warwick on the first day of school.

“I know that this will be another exciting and challenging year of learning in all of our schools in Rhode Island,” Gist said. “Since July, when I began my work as Commissioner, I have had the pleasure of visiting many summer-learning programs and meeting parents, educators, and students. Everyone I have met so far has made me even more sure that we can work together to have great schools in every community in our state.”

On Tuesday (September 1<sup>st</sup>), Gist will visit Central Falls for the first day of school in the district. She will begin her morning at the administration office (21 Hedley Ave.) at 7:30, and from there she and Supt. Frances Gallo will walk to schools in the immediate area: Dr. Earl F. Calcutt Middle School (112 Washington St.), Central Falls Senior High School (24 Summer St.), Veterans Memorial School (150 Fuller Ave.), and the Ella Risk School (949 Dexter St.).

Later in the morning, they will visit the Margaret I. Robertson School (135 Hunt St.) and the Capt. Harold G. Hunt School (723 Central Ave., Pawtucket). They will also stop in at one of the newly opened charter schools, the Segue Institute for Learning (361 Cowden St., Central Falls).

On Wednesday (September 2<sup>nd</sup>), Gist will visit Warwick for the first day of school in that district. She will meet students as they arrive at the Oakland Beach Elementary School (383 Oakland Beach Ave.), shortly before 8 a.m., and she will visit classes in the school till 9:30 a.m.

“The first day of school is a wonderful time of year for educators and students,” Gist said. “I know the amazing joys and incredible challenges teachers face every day, and I have the utmost respect for the work our teachers do. I really look forward to greeting teachers and students as they begin this school year.

“Every one of us in Rhode Island – students, teachers, parents, administrators – will have to do more to transform our schools. I will be visiting schools in every district across the state this fall to gather information and to hear what parents, teachers, and students have to say about education reform. I look forward to working with all Rhode Islanders to make sure that our students get a world-class education.”

The Commissioner’s visits on the first day of school are open to the media. The Commissioner’s Office has sent separately a full schedule of Commissioner Gist’s school visits.

You can follow Commissioner Gist’s school visits on Twitter ([deborahagist](#)) and on Facebook ([Deborah A. Gist](#)).

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